

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, CO

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE

1. THE NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND, BETHESDA, MD., IS CURRENTLY SUPPORTING BASIC RESEARCH ON MALARIA IMMUNOLOGY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MALARIA VACCINE. RESEARCH EFFORTS TO DATE HAVE COMPRISED THREE MAJOR COMPONENTS:

A. CHARACTERIZATION OF IMMUNOLOGICAL RESPONSES TO EXPERIMENTAL INFECTION WITH MAMMALIAN AND AVIAN MALARIA PARASITES; IDENTIFICATION, PRODUCTION, PURIFICATION, AND ATTENUATION OF ANTIGENS; QUANTITATION IN ANIMALS OF PROTECTIVE IMMUNE RESPONSES. (WORK LARGELY CARRIED OUT AT THE NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BETHESDA, MD.)

B. PRELIMINARY IMMUNIZATION ATTEMPTS IN VOLUNTEERS USING X-IRRADIATED MALARIA SPOROZOITES UNDER CONTRACT WITH RUSH UNIVERSITY, CHICAGO, IL.

C. FIELD STUDIES ON THE DURATION AND SPECIES SPECIFICITY

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OF NATURALLY ACQUIRED IMMUNITY TO MALARIA. (WORK CARRIED

OUT AT NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT NO. 5, ADDIS ABABA,
ETHIOPIA.)

2. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE LED TO A NAVY DECISION TO
INCREASE THE LEVEL OF R&D EFFORT IN MALARIA IMMUNOLOGY/
VACCINE DEVELOPMENT AND TO CONSIDER RELOCATION OF
CERTAIN PORTIONS OF THE WORK. RECENT POLITICAL
INSTABILITY IN ETHIOPIA RAISES DOUBTS AS TO THE FUTURE
OF FIELD STUDIES IN THAT COUNTRY.

3. DISCUSSIONS AMONG NAVY IN-HOUSE SCIENTISTS AND
CONTRACTORS AND STAFF MEMBERS OF THE PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH ORGANIZATION HAVE REVEALED THAT COLOMBIA IS A
POTENTIALLY DESIRABLE SITE FOR PERFORMANCE OF FURTHER
CONTRACT-SUPPORTED WORK ON IMMUNIZATION AGAINST MALARIA.
THE ADVANTAGES OF PERFORMING THE WORK IN COLOMBIA ARE:

A. ENDEMICITY OF BOTH FALCIPARUM AND VIVAX MALARIA IN
LOWLAND AREAS OF THE COUNTRY;

B. AN ABUNDANCE OF LOTUS MONKEYS, THE ONLY ANIMAL
READILY INFECTED WITH FALCIPARUM MALARIA;

C. THE EXISTENCE OF A NATIONAL MALARIA PROGRAM AND THE
AVAILABILITY OF COLOMBIAN PERSONNEL REPORTEDLY ABLE TO
CONDUCT LABORATORY AND FIELD STUDIES ON IMMUNITY TO
MALARIA;

D. AVAILABILITY OF LABORATORY SPACE, CLINICAL BEDS, AND
ANIMAL QUARTERS, ELIMINATING THE NEED FOR CONSTRUCTION;

E. INTEREST AND POTENTIAL COLLABORATION OF THE PAN
AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION.

4. THE PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED TRAVEL TO COLOMBIA ON
THE PART OF DR. J. R. SCHMIDT, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS AND
SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR, NAVAL MEDICAL R&D COMMAND, AND
CAPTAIN K.W. SELL, COMMANDING OFFICER, NAVAL MEDICAL
RESEARCH INSTITUTE, IS TO EVALUATE THE POTENTIAL OF
COLOMBIA AS A SITE FOR NAVY-SPONSORED RESEARCH ON
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MALARIA BY

A. ON-SITE INSPECTION OF PHYSICAL FACILITIES REQUIRED
TO SUPPORT PROJECTED R&D EFFORTS;

B. ASSESSMENT OF THE PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL
COMPETENCE OF THE SCIENTIFIC STAFFS AT SELECTED
LOCATIONS:

C. DEFINITION OF THE EXTENT, NATURE, AND COST OF THE

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LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR A COLOMBIA-BASED RESEARCH PROGRAM.

5. THE VISIT WILL BE MADE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION (CONTACT: DR. JOSE NAJERA, RESEARCH OFFICER, MALARIA ERADICATION DEPT.). SITES TO BE VISITED ARE:

A. UNIVERSIDAD DE ANTIOQUIA, MEDELLIN, COLOMBIA
(LOCAL CONTACT: DR. DAVID BOTERO, CHAIRMAN, DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY AND PARASITOLOGY.).

B. UNIVERSIDAD DE ANTIOQUIA HOSPITAL, APARTADO, COLOMBIA (LOCAL CONTACT AS ABOVE).

6. PROPOSED ITINERARY: WASH DC TO MEDELLIN, APARTADO AND BOGOTA, COLOMBIA: RETURN TO WASH DC. DEFINITE DATES WILL BE ARRANGED BY PAHO BUT TRAVEL WILL BE FOR 5 DAYS BETWEEN 28 APR AND 12 MAY 75.

7. THE TRIP WILL INVOLVE MEETINGS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY BUT WILL NOT INVOLVE MEETINGS WITH INFORMATION MEDIA PERSONNEL, INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES, OR LOGISTICAL SUPPORT BY U.S. EMBASSY OR CONSULAR PERSONNEL. FOREIGN POLICY WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH OFFICIALS OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENT OR WITH INFORMATION MEDIA PERSONNEL. EMBASSY WILL BE CONTACTED IMMEDIATELY ON ARRIVAL FOR INSTRUCTIONS AND DEBRIEFED PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. CIVILIAN CLOTHES WILL BE WORN AT ALL TIMES.
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8. IT IS REQUESTED THAT DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE FOR THIS PROPOSED VISIT BE OBTAINED. KISSINGER

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